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ABSTRACT

Attitudes of members of Greek fraternities and sororities concerning hazing were studied at the University of North Dakota. A survey instrument was completed by 476 students. Activities considered to be hazing by a majority of respondents were those that are potentially injurious to the physical and/or mental health of the pledges or that could adversely affect their school performance. Women were more conservative than men in their perception of hazing, but followed the same general pattern of response. The percentage of respondents condidering an acitvity to be haziny decreased as the potential severity of the activity decreased. Most respondents felt that hazing was perceived as a method of creating unity in the pledge class, and felt that hazing was no problem in their own chapter. However, a relatively high proportion of both fraternity and sorority members considered hazing to be a problem on the campus in general. Activities considered to be hazing are identified, and a sample questionnaire and aggregated responses to items are included. (SW)

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INTRODUCTION

An accurate description of student attitudes toward and definitions of hazing is a necessary first step in any program designed to deal with problems which arise in this area. This study was an attempt to discover attitudes and definitions held by our Greek members, and to determine students' perceptions of the extent of hazing problems on campus.

Our sample (all members present at the Monday night Greek chapters meetings) was assumed to be representative of the total Greek membership. Further, the responses to the survey were assumed to be individually determined and not a result of group/house discussion.

METHOD

A cross sectional survey was used which was adapted from a similar instrument composed by the national office of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. It was distributed to all members present at a regular Monday night meeting (March 17, 1980) of the twenty Greek houses by the presidents of the houses.

Subsequently, 476 completed surveys were returned to the Dean of Students Office by the presidents and analyzed using the SPSS program at UND's Computer Center. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix A.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Activities considered to be hazing by a majority of the respondents are those which are potentially injurious to the physical and/or mental health of the pledges* or which could adversely affect their school performance (See Table 1). These criteria appear to have been uniformly

*An associate or pledge is a probationary member seeking to be initiated. An active or initiate is an initiated, full member.

applied to all of the items. Responses indicating hazing decline as the potential severity of the activity decreased.

Attitudes of men versus women differ in many instances, with the women tending to be more conservative in their perceptions of hazing (e.g., a greater percentage of women considered total nudity at any time to be hazing). Figure 1 indicates some of the differences between male and female responses to these questions.

Actives and associates also differ in their perceptions of hazing. 68.4% of the active members considered throwing whipped cream, etc. to be hazing, as compared to 48.4% of the associates/pledges. 21.1% of the actives considered line-ups to be hazing, with 18.5% not sure. A much greater percentage of the pledges (30.5%) were not sure line-ups were hazing, however, and only 11.6% definitely considered them to be hazing. Lengthy work sessions were another gray area for associate members, with 26.6% not sure they constituted hazing. 55.0% did consider work sessions to be hazing, as compared to 49.7% of the initiates. Other areas

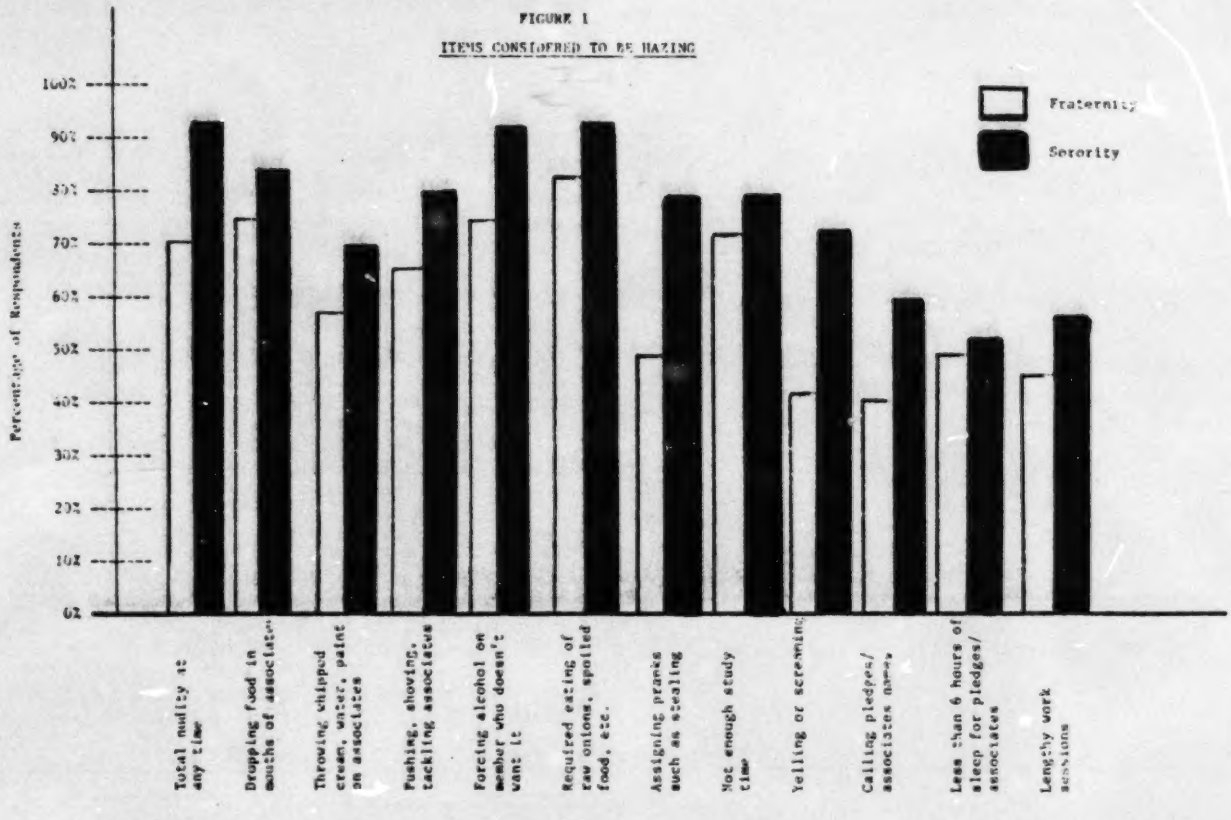
TABLE 1: Activities considered to be hazing by a majority of respondents.

1)	Total nudity at any time.	80.4%
2)	Dropping food (eggs, grapes, liver, etc.) in the mouths of associates/ pledges.	78.3%
3)	Paddle swats.	78.7%
4)	Throwing whipped cream, water, paints, etc. on associate members/pledges.	62.7%
5)	Pushing, shoving, or tackling an associate member/pledge.	62.7%
6)	Forcing alcoholic beverages on a member who does not wish to drink or drink that much.	91.5%
7)	Required eating of raw onions, spoiled food, etc.	87.1%
8)	Assigning "pranks" such as stealing, painting objects, panty raids, harassing another organization.	61.7%
9)	Active members intentionally messing up the house or a room for the associates/ pledges to clean.	55.1%
10)	Associates not permitted adequate time for studies during pre-initiation or initiation periods.	74.8%
11)	Yelling and screaming at associate members.	52.5%
12)	Calling pledges/associates "scums" or other such names.	47.8%
13)	Less than six continuous hours of sleep for pledges/associates each night during pre-initiation or initiation.	47.5%
14)	Lengthy work sessions.	49.5%

where large numbers of the associates had not formulated clear ideas included house duties not shared by initiates (34.7% of the associates not sure) and final examinations for associates (23.3% of the associates not sure). Most initiates (81.0%) did not consider final exams to be hazing, as compared to 67.4% of the associates.

FIGURE 1

ITEMS CONSIDERED TO BE HAZING



An examination of those items <u>not</u> considered to be hazing revealed some interesting results as well. Ten items from the questionnaire which were identified by 45.0% or more of the respondents as <u>not</u> being hazing are shown in Table 2. Of the total (men and women) responding, 78.2% did not consider a "final examination or written test" to be

hazing and 86.2% did not consider pledge/associate members versus active members in athletic competition to be hazing.

The eight remaining items considered not to be hazing were calisthenics, loud or repeated noises, line-ups, black books or name lists, memorization, personal errands, admittance to chapter meetings, being required to "think about the Ritual," keeping information from the pledges, and requiring pledges/associates to do "house duties." A further breakdown by male/female is found in Figure 2.

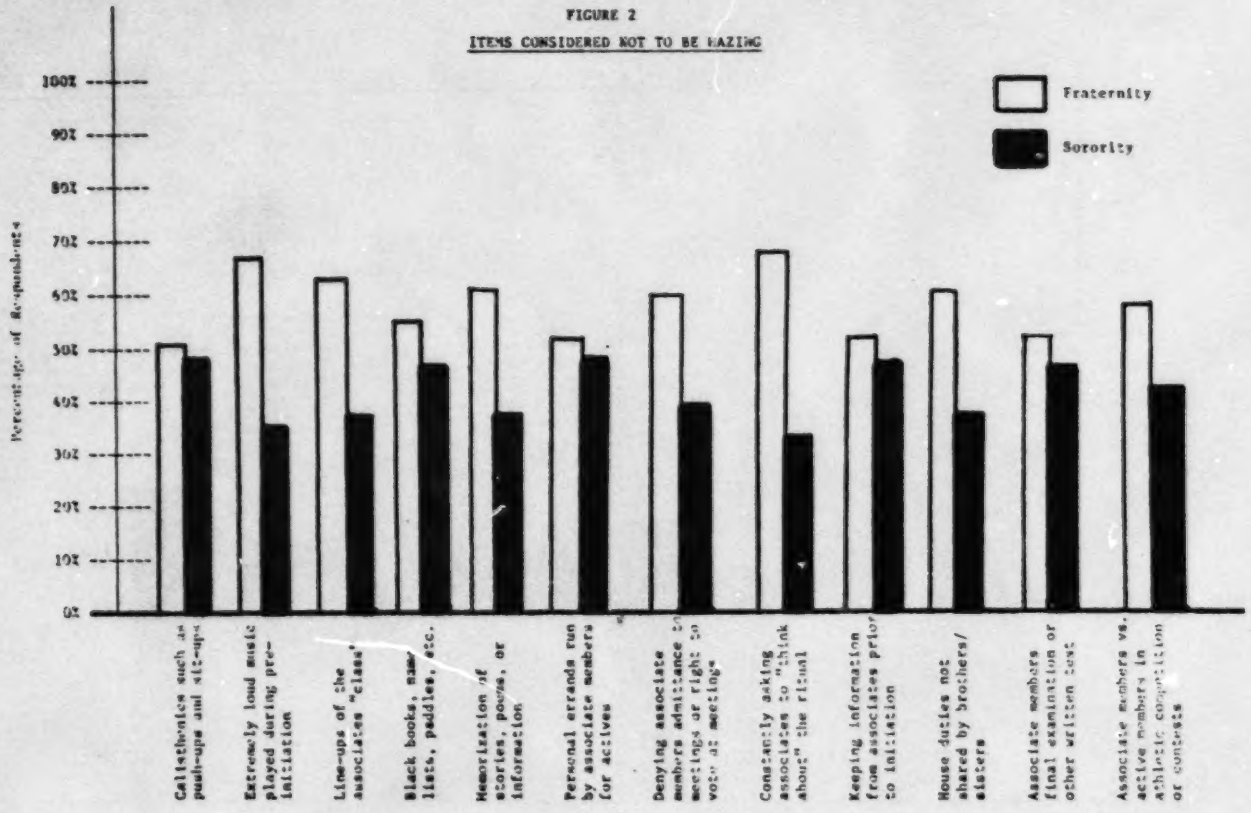
TABLE 2 : Activities considered not to be hazing by a majority of respondents.

1)	Calisthenics such as sit-ups and push-ups.	49.4%
2)	Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played during pre-initiation week and/or between portions of the ritual.	47.3%
3)	Line-ups of the associate member "class."	60.7%
4)	Black books, name lists, paddles, etc. on which signatures must be obtained.	61.1%
5)	Memorization of stories, poems, or information not directly related to the sorority or fraternity.	47.3%
6)	Personal errands run by associate members for the active members (servitude).	46.3%
7)	Denying associate members admittance to chapter meetings or the right to vote at meetings (generally and without due process under the fraternity/sorority law.	54.2%
8)	Constantly (many times a day or routinely every day) asking associates to "think about" what to expect in "The Ritual."	49.5%
9)	Keeping information from the associates prior to initiation (dates of initiation, time required each day for fraternity duties, etc.)	63.6%
10)	House duties not shared by initiated brothers/sisters.	47.1%
11)	Associate member final examination or other written test.	78.2%
12)	Associate members vs. active members in athletic contests or other competition instead of teams composed from both groups.	86.2%

In response to a question on the continuation hazing, the majority felt it was to create unity in the associate/pledge "class." 65.0% of the initiates and 52.9% of the associates considered this to be the reason most members would use. The next most frequent reason was the traditional aspect of hazing: "We did it, why shouldn't they?" 37.0% of the initiates and 36.1% of the associates responded that this was a justification used by many of the active members.

FIGURE 2

ITEMS CONSIDERED NOT TO BE HAZING


Fraternity
Sorority
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Calisthenics such as push-ups and sit-ups
Extremely loud music played during pre-initiation
Line-ups of the associates "class"
Black books, name lists, paddles, etc.
Memorization of stories, pouns, or information
Personal errands run by associate members for actives
Denying associate members admittance to meetings or right to vote at meetings
Constantly asking associates to "think about" the ritual
Keeping information from associates prior to initiation
House duties not shared by brothers/sisters
Associate members final examination or other written test
Associate members vs. active members in athletic competition or contests

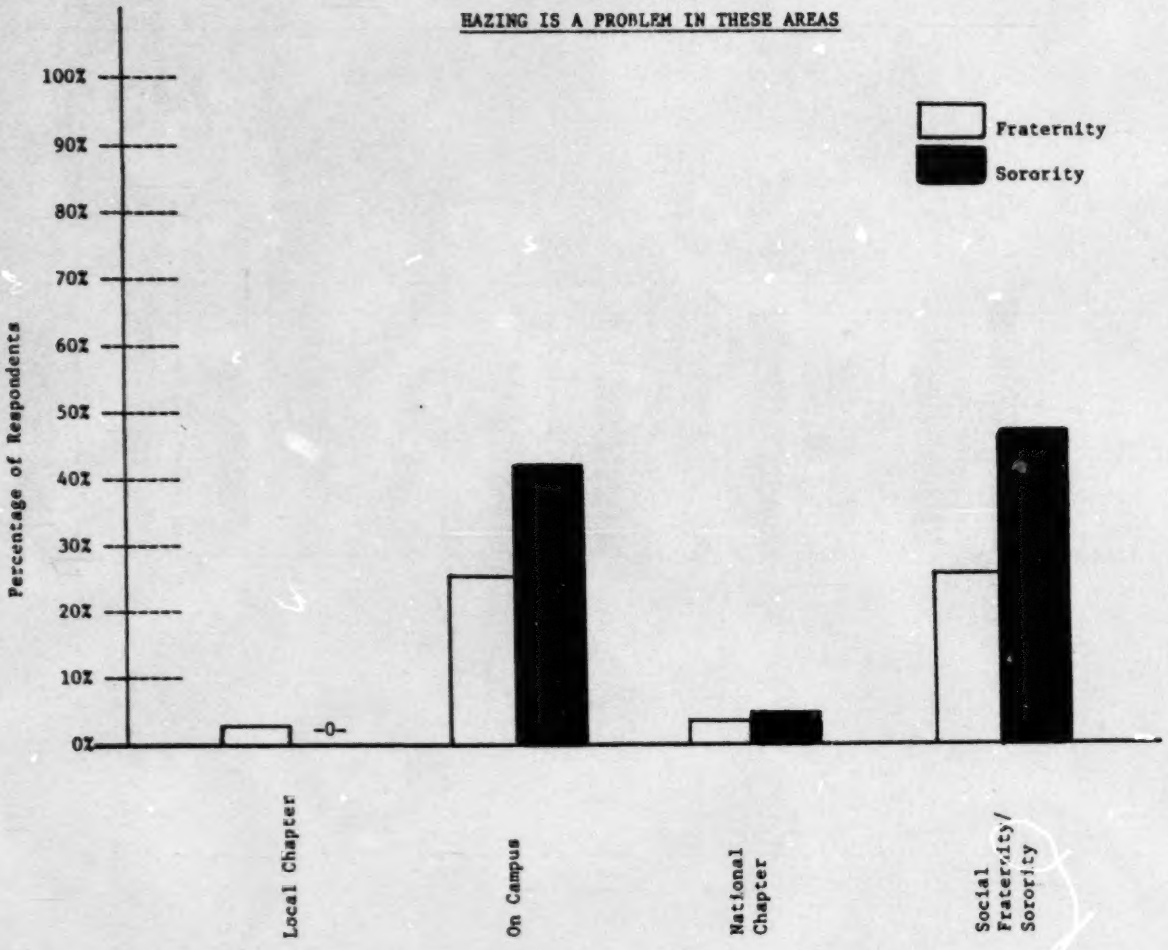
98.7% of the initiate members and 97.8% of the associate members/pledges did not consider hazing to be a problem in their local chapter. 96.3% of the initiates and 95.5% of the associates maintained that hazing was no problem in their national chapter (See Figure 3).

Seemingly conflicting responses occur, however: 32.6% of the initiates and 32.5% of the associates believed hazing to be a problem on campus. And, 36.6% of the initiates and 26.3% of the associates believe hazing to be a problem in social fraternities/sororities in general.

Whether problems are actually occurring is not clear. More in-depth study of these areas may indicate a more accurate description of attitudes in this area.

FIGURE 3

HAZING IS A PROBLEM IN THESE AREAS



SUMMARY

In an effort to gain descriptive information regarding hazing on campus, a survey of 476 members of UND Greek houses was completed. The information gained included a description of students' attitudes toward and definitions of hazing, as well as their perceptions of the extent of hazing on our campus.

Results indicated that activities which were potentially harmful to the physical and/or mental health of pledges were considered to be

hazing by a majority of respondents. Women were more conservative than men in their perception of hazing, but followed the same general pattern of response. The percentage of respondents considering an activity to be hazing decreased as the potential severity of the activity decreased.

Most respondents felt that hazing was perceived as a method of creating unity in the pledge "class," and felt that hazing was no problem in their own chapter. However, a relatively high proportion of both fraternity and sorority members considered hazing to be a problem on our campus in general. Further research is needed to determine the reason for this apparent discrepancy.

The survey can provide valuable baseline information for program development, and should stimulate ideas for further research in this area.

A QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING HAZING PRACTICE IN SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES AT UND

The intent of this questionnaire is to discover the extent of hazing on campus, to determine how our Greeks define hazing, and to establish a consensus on how hazing should be dealt with on our campus. Your name and chapter will not, indeed cannot, be disclosed as a respondent to this survey, since they are not requested on this form. It is requested, however, that you indicate your membership status for statistical purposes:

1. 1. Initiate 308 (64.7%)
   2. Associate Member/Pledge 95 (20.3%)
   3. Not Indicated 73 (15.0%)

INSTRUCTIONS: For each of the following items, mark an "X" in the appropriate column to indicate whether or not you consider the item to be hazing.

Yes 1	Not Sure 2	No 3		
149(31.3)	89(18.7)	235(49.4)	2.	Calisthenics such as sit-ups and push-ups.
382(80.3)	27(5.7)	66(13.9)	3.	Total nudity at any time.
199(41.8)	87(18.3)	188(39.5)	4.	Wearing or carrying of items such as coconuts, helmets, burlap bags, rocks, paddles.
372(78.2)	52(10.9)	51(10.7)	5.	Dropping food (eggs, grapes, liver, etc.) in the mouths of associate members/ pledges.
374(78.6)	35(7.4)	66(13.9)	6.	Paddle swats.
297(62.4)	71(14.9)	106(22.3)	7.	Throwing whipped cream, water, paint, etc. on an associate member/pledge.
131(27.5)	117(24.6)	225(47.3)	8.	Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played during pre-initiation week and/or between portions of the ritual.
335(70.4)	73(15.3)	65(13.7)	9.	Pushing, shoving, or tackling associate members/pledges.
203(42.6)	97(20.4)	169(35.5)	10.	Associates/pledges awakened time and again during the night.
207(43.5)	133(27.9)	129(27.1)	11.	Rat court, kangaroo court, or other individual interrogations.
383(80.5)	33(6.9)	54(11.3)	12.	Forcing alcoholic beverages on a member who does not wish to drink or drink that much.
94(19.7)	92(19.3)	289(60.7)	13.	Line-ups of the associate member "class".
98(20.6)	83(17.4)	291(61.1)	14.	Black books, name lists, paddles, etc. on which signatures must be obtained.
126(26.5)	121(25.4)	225(47.3)	15.	Memorization of stories, poems, or information not directly related to the sorority or fraternity.
411(86.3)	25(5.3)	36(7.6)	16.	Required eating of raw onions, spoiled foods, etc.
153(32.8)	104(21.8)	212(44.5)	17.	Road trips, kidnaps of associates or members.

Yes	Not Sure	No		
206(43.3)	177(37.9)	87(18.6)	18.	War games.
208(44.5)	93(19.9)	169(36.2)	19.	Putting associates in a room which is uncomfortable (temperature, noise, too small) during pre-initiation activities or between portions of the ritual.
146(31.3)	112(24.0)	216(46.3)	20.	Personal errands run by associate members for the active members (servitude).
119(25.5)	100(21.4)	253(54.2)	21.	Denying associate members admittance to chapter meetings or the right to vote at meetings (generally and without due process under fraternity/sorority law.
292(62.5)	77(16.5)	104(22.3)	22.	Assigning "pranks" such as stealing, painting objects, panty raids, harassing another organization.
259(55.5)	88(18.8)	123(26.3)	23.	Active members intentionally messing up the house or a room for the associates/pledges to clean.
223(47.8)	74(15.8)	174(37.3)	24.	Calling associates/pledges "scums" or similar names.
222(47.5)	88(18.8)	157(33.6)	25.	Less than six continuous hours of sleep for associates each night during pre-initiation and initiation.
353(77.6)	63(13.5)	56(12.0)	26.	Associates not permitted adequate time for studies during pre-initiation or initiation periods.
186(39.8)	104(22.3)	181(38.8)	27.	Deception prior to the ritual designed to convince an associate that he will not be initiated.
248(53.1)	98(21.0)	126(27.0)	28.	Yelling and screaming at associate members.
231(49.5)	94(20.1)	143(30.6)	29.	Lengthy work sessions.
105(22.5)	131(28.1)	231(49.5)	30.	Constantly (many times a day or routinely every day) asking associates to "think about" what to expect in "The Ritual".
107(22.9)	68(14.6)	297(63.6)	31.	Keeping information from the associates prior to initiation (dates of initiation, time required each day for fraternity duties, etc.).
201(43.0)	148(31.7)	121(25.9)	32.	Associates expected to do anything exclusively "for the fun of the actives".
129(27.6)	122(26.1)	220(47.1)	33.	House duties not shared by initiated brothers/sisters.
195(41.8)	138(29.6)	127(27.2)	34.	Associates expected to do <u>anything</u> that the active members will not do with them.
44(9.4)	62(13.3)	365(78.2)	35.	Associate member final examination or other written test.
58(12.4)	52(11.1)	356(96.2)	36.	Associate members vs. active members in athletic contests or other competitions instead of teams composed from both groups.

Please list any activities in your sorority or fraternity not mentioned above which you DO consider hazing:_____

_____

Many reasons are given for continuing the practice of hazing. In your chapter, how many of the actives would use as (partial) justification the following reasons?

Most 1	Many 2	A Few 3	None 4	
10(2.1)	27(5.7)	130(27.3)	271(56.9)	37. Proof that "every man must be a man".
18(3.8)	38(8.0)	160(33.6)	228(47.9)	38. Instilling humility in associate/pledges.
45(9.5)	116(24.4)	181(38.0)	100(21.0)	39. Tradition: "we did it, why shouldn't they?".
22(4.6)	42(8.8)	116(24.4)	257(54.0)	40. Campus climate-it is necessary in order to have the respect of other fraternities/sororities.
24(5.0)	81(17.0)	142(29.8)	193(40.5)	41. The associates/pledges want it, enjoy it.
154(32.4)	118(24.8)	86(18.1)	80(16.8)	42. Creating unity in the associate/pledge "class".
				43. Other_____

_____

In your chapter, which of the following statements most closely describes the condition of the majority of members being initiated as they first enter the Ritual room? Check only one.

220(46.2) 44. Physically rested and mentally alert.
137(28.8) 45. Physically tired but mentally alert.
52(10.9) 46. Physically and mentally tired.
1 (0.2) 47. Physically exhausted and nearly incoherent.

To what extent do you think the members of your chapter are aware of the legal implications (criminal prosecution, liability, suits) created by hazing activites? Check only one.

267(56.1) 48. It clearly affects the activities of the chapter.
101(21.2) 49. Probably aware but do not do much about it.
34(7.1) 50. Only one or two are conscious of the matter.
46(9.7) 51. It is doubtful that any of them have considered the matter.

My personal reaction to hazing is that it: Check only one.

24(5.0) 52. Is purposeful.
51(10.7) 53. Is purposeful in many cases.
194(40.8) 54. Can be purposeful in some instances.
190(39.9) 55. Has no benefits whatever.

Yes 1	No 2		
7(1.5)	499(94.3)	56.	Do you consider hazing to be a problem in your local chapter?
139(29.2)	293(61.6)	57.	Do you consider hazing to be a problem on your campus?
17(3.6)	430(90.3)	58.	Do you consider hazing to be a problem in your fraternity/sorority nationally?
144(30.3)	286(60.1)	59.	Do you consider hazing to be a problem within social fraternities/sororities?

If you responded "yes" to any of these four questions, what steps should be taken to deal with the problem?

1. I don't know. 5

2. Have national crack down on the chapter. 8

3. Explain to people the implications of hazing and that it doesn't accomplish anything as far as developing mature, respectful actives.

4. Awareness of dangers to personal relations between members. Have them try it just once without hazing! It will surprise them.

5. Education. New look at their organization. 3

6. Our fraternity banned hazing 3 years ago. I feel that it should be banned from all organizations.

7. This questionnaire is very hard to answer because too many answers could change every situation - as far as hazing on campus and in sororities and fraternities - I have heard a few stories about them, but how can anyone say for sure that someone else is hazing unless you are there to experience it and know exactly what happened. I can't condemn anyone without knowing what and how they have run their programs.

8. We feel all Greek organizations should outlaw hazing. 3

9. Stiff rules and tough penalities against hazing. Not like the stupid easy ones you gave the _____. I feel the punishment they were given was taken for granted. It didn't do any good.

10. The campus should set rules. If these are broken, the National fraternity should be notified of the existing situation. The National fraternity and police should be the ones to deal with this problem if it goes beyond this point.

11. Campus should clearly define hazing. Any act that occurs and is hazing should be dealt with at a local level and if it doesn't stop, should be brought up to their nationals. 2

12. I don't think anything can be done to prevent it. 2

13. Too much of the hazing involves heavy and abusive drinking.

14. Change rules or exercises to make it easier on the pledges.

15. Rules of the campus hazing should be sent out. 5

16. They should be made illegal and criminal prosecution should result for offenders. 4

17. This questionnaire does not clarify itself well enough to be of any value.

18. I think the actives are the ones who need help.

19. There must be other methods of joining Greek life.

20. Fining and reprimanding. 2

21. Enforce measures to have it stopped. 8

22. The "local" sororities and fraternities (not nationally affiliated) should be watched by their student governments if they are causing any problems.

23. Educate people on the legalities of hazing and the steps that might be taken against parties who do haze. 7

24. Create positive, non-hazing things - always told what not to do, but never what to do. Have workshops for the Greek System. Have an outside source give info to the pledges on what hazing is and what they can do if chapter is hazing them.

25. Inspections of these matters should be sought and there should be a fine imposed or charter retracted. 4

26. I feel all hazing should be discontinued - of which the pledge is expected to perform any duty an active would not do at that time period. They should work together to gain unity and respect.

27. Some of the fraternities get a bit out of hand, however, it has gotten better.

28. Encourage reporting of violations.

29. Have all fraternity/sorority initiation weeks reviewed by their national executive board. 3

30. Each chapter should be strictly regulated and rules defined. I think UND controls the Greek system well.

31. Just cut it out - make hazing a thing of the past. Use only to unite associate class. 2

32. Should be solved by Greek organization - Panhel & IFC - not an outside organization. 2

33. I think it is much more of a problem with some of the fraternities, rather than sororities. It needs to be found out what exactly does go on.

34. Steps needed to improve image of sororities/fraternities. It only takes a few to damage the reputation of the other sororities/fraternities.

35. All local activations should be subject to review by the Dean of Men.

36. Probation.

37. Should be handled within the fraternity. 2

38. To the best of knowledge, none of these apply, but that's only my opinion.

39. Hazing is not a problem.

40. This means nothing. Does not apply.

41. Our national, which has a questionnaire like this one, word for word, is, as you know, a leader in the anti-hazing movement. They, however, make the same mistake that most national fraternities make, they tell their chapters everything that they are not supposed to do, then they forget to give them some ideas on what to do during activation, rather than use scum tactics. As a result most chapters find it easier to keep doing what they are than think up something new.

42. Most people are becoming a little better in regard to hazing and it will probably be pretty good in a few years as more people realize it isn't needed.

43. Limit the use of physical or mental abuse of the family.

44. Strict monetary and social penalties. 4

45. The houses that are reported to have hazing, should be investigated.

46. IFC and Panhellenic restrictions. 2

47. I think it may scare some possible members into refraining from pledging.

48. Must be chapters responsibility.

49. Crack down on frats to change hazing to something constructive, instead of destructive.

50. Make sure no one gets carried away.

51. Keep your nose out of it. Thank you.